

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /080 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7370

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EI, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND RECALLED

REF: DUBLIN 186

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN HE AUSTRALIAN
JANUARY 28:

2. QTE. GAIR SACKED FROM EIRE POST
AUSTRALIA'S AMBASSADOR TO EIRE, MR. VINCE GAIR, WHOSE
APPOINTMENT CAUSED A POLITICAL STORM IN 1974, HAS BEEN
SACKED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

3. QTE THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PEACOCK, TWO
WEEKS AGO DECIDED TO RECALL MR. GAIR, AND HE WAS FORMERLY
INFORMED OF THE DECISION LAST WEEK.

4. QTE HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA IN MARCH. HIS
POSITION WILL BE FILLED BY A CAREER DIPLOMAT.

5. QTE DESPITE HIS RECENT CLAIMS THAT HIS JOB WAS SECURE,
MR. GAIR'S SACKING COMES AMID GROWING CRITICISM IN THE FOR-
EIGN AFFAIRS DEPARMTNE OF HIS CAPABILITY.

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6. QTE MR. PEACOCK HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT MR. GAIR'S

ABILITY AND REGARDED A DECISION ON HIS FUTURE AS A PRIORITY
AFTER THE LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY WON GOVERNMENT.

7. QTE MR. GAIR SCOFFED AT REPORTS IN DUBLIN LAST
MONTH THAT HE WOULD BE RELIEVED OF DUTY.

8. QTE INNER QTE I'VE DONE MY JOB HERE - I HAVE
CONSCIENTIOUSLY DISCHARGED MY DUTIES, END INNER
QTE HE SAID.

9 QTE MR. GAIR, THE FORMER DLP SENATE LEADER, WAS
APPOINTED TO DUBLIN IN 1974 BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT
IN WHAT WAS SEEN AS A MANOEUVRE TO WIN CONTROL OF THE
SENATE BY CREATING AN EXTRA VACANCY AT THE IMPENDING
HALF-SENATE ELECTIONS.

10. QTE IN THE ENSUING UPROAR THE LIBERAL OPPOSITION
BLOCKED SUPPLY, FORCING A DOUBLE DISSOLUTION OF PAR-
LIAMENT AND AN ELECTION WHICH RETURNED LABOR. END QTE
PERCIVAL

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